

1 MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS

2 * * * *

3 Wednesday, March 27, 2013

4 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

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6 COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

ANTHONY CLARK, Chairman
 7 AL SCHMIDT, Vice Chairman
 STEPHANIE SINGER, Commissioner
 8 CARLA MOSS, Deputy Commissioner
 DON GARECHT, Deputy Commissioner
 9 DENNIS LEE, Deputy Commissioner

10 PRESENT:

FRED VOIGT, Legal Counsel
 11 JOSEPH LYNCH, Election Material
 TIM DOWLING, Documents
 12 GARY FERRIS, Poll Material Supervisor
 DEBORAH MURCHISON, Election and Voter Registration
 13 GREGORY IRVING, Data Support Supervisor
 SETH BLUESTEIN
 14 GREGG KRAVITZ
 JOSEPH DeFELICE, Republican Party
 15 MOLLY MORRILL, Committee of Seventy
 CHRIS BRENNAN, Philadelphia Daily News
 16 LAURA C. DIJOLS, National Action Network

17 HELD AT: Delaware and Spring Garden Streets
 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

18

REPORTED BY:

19 Renée Helmar, Shorthand Reporter

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1 (Whereupon, the proceeding began
2 at approximately 11:00 a.m.)

3 MR. CHAIRMAN: Good morning, everyone.

4 Can I just have your attention.

5 Today is Wednesday, March 27th. It is 11 a.m.

6 This is the Sunshine Meeting.

7 We want to open up first with public comments.

8 Are there any public comments?

9 (Whereupon, there was no
10 response.)

11 MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Old business.

12 John Day.

13 MR. LYNCH: John Day is still out sick.

14 I checked with Mike Orth today, they're doing --
15 they've been doing all week Code 41s.

16 They're checks on the lights and the lamp test
17 throughout the warehouse with all of the machines. And
18 they're doing pretty good with that.

19 I don't know exactly how far they got. I think
20 they got three quarters of the way done with them.

21 COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: That sounds good.

22 MR. LYNCH: And John is supposed to go back to the
23 doctor Tuesday to see if he can get clearance to come back.

24 But I told him, don't rush.

1 MR. CHAIRMAN: That's good.

2 COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: Well, we are all concerned
3 for his safety.

4 MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. We're going to move on
5 to Tim Dowling.

6 Tim.

7 MR. DOWLING: All right. On Friday and Monday we
8 had our petition cases. They pretty much concluded the
9 first step.

10 Judge Dembe, as usual, did a fantastic job of
11 handling 23 Traffic Court cases and 16 board worker cases.

12 As of now one Traffic Court candidate has filed an
13 appeal with Commonwealth Court. And I received a call from
14 another candidate yesterday who intends to file an appeal to
15 Commonwealth Court because she didn't show up for the
16 hearing. And she just found out yesterday that she was
17 subpoenaed to the hearing.

18 So, she is thinking about filing an appeal.

19 Those appeals run ten days from the date of the
20 Decision of the Court.

21 I believe April 1st would be the last day to file
22 any appeal.

23 Last day to withdraw for any candidate either at
24 the city level or state level is today by 5:00.

1 And bilingual interpreters, we're going to send
2 our letter out tomorrow to our database of bilingual
3 interpreters just to reach out and ask them if they're going
4 to be working this election, and that the training will be
5 offered again.

6 And the training is set tentatively right now for
7 April 27th, which is a Saturday.

8 We also -- I did an interview with Al Dia in
9 regards to outreach for bilingual interpreters.

10 And off that interview we've already gotten 16 new
11 recruits. So it worked out well for us.

12 MR. CHAIRMAN: That's beautiful.

13 MR. DOWLING: And that's all I have.

14 MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Do you want -- let me ask
15 you something, Tim. Out of the 40 candidates that filed for
16 Traffic Court how many --

17 MR. DOWLING: Right now we have 14 off, with the
18 exception of those -- one person that filed the appeal and
19 the one that may file an appeal. Most of them were thrown
20 off either for insufficient signatures. And once they found
21 out that they had insufficient signatures they withdraw
22 before the judge.

23 MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay.

24 MR. DOWLING: There were some challenges where the

1 objections were withdrawn because it was basically their
2 Statement of Financial Interest or the Candidate Affidavit
3 was incomplete. And they had a right to amend that, which
4 they did before the Court and served us with a copy.

5 Of the candidates who actually withdrew, we have
6 one, two, three candidates filed withdraw papers with us.

7 MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay.

8 MR. DOWLING: Which is different then them
9 withdrawing before the Court, because that was part of the
10 Order, insufficient signatures, candidate withdrew.

11 MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. All right. We're going to
12 move along.

13 Gary Ferris, please.

14 MR. FERRIS: Good morning, Commissioners.

15 We're working on getting back-up polling places
16 for anything that has refused at this point.

17 We also have some people that have not responded,
18 so we're working on a few of those that are left.

19 Next week we will have the hearings here starting
20 at 9:00 in this courtroom. And then after the meeting we'll
21 resume again at 1:00 to hear the rest of the hearings.

22 There is approximately 30 hearings for polling
23 place changes.

24 Other than that -- I don't know if it was brought

1 up, but Judge Dembe had sent out an E-mail about filling the
2 board vacancies. They will be held earlier this year than
3 normal.

4 I believe it is the Tuesday, May 7th, which moves
5 it up about ten days prior than the normal time. It's
6 usually the Wednesday before the election, which, kind of,
7 causes, you know, not much time to notify people.

8 So, now that there is more time to notify
9 hopefully things will run a little smoother.

10 I think the parties that will be filing will be
11 notifying their candidates or their judges sooner that
12 they'll have people coming to those polling places. So
13 that's good news.

14 COMMISSIONER SINGER: And what's the date for
15 people to submit? If the hearing is on the 7th, do we know
16 yet the date?

17 MR. VOIGT: It is part of the Order.

18 MR. FERRIS: It would probably be the Wednesday
19 before, like, at 3:00.

20 MR. VOIGT: It is the Tuesday before.

21 MR. FERRIS: Tuesday before?

22 MR. VOIGT: Yeah.

23 COMMISSIONER SINGER: All right. So the Tuesday,
24 the 30th of April.

1 MR. FERRIS: So it moves up.

2 MR. VOIGT: I will provide you another copy of
3 that Order, all three Commissioners.

4 MR. CHAIRMAN: All right.

5 COMMISSIONER SINGER: Thank you.

6 MR. FERRIS: And other than that, we're just
7 trying to get ready with all the handicapped items,
8 modification items that will have to be sent to the polling
9 places.

10 MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay.

11 MR. FERRIS: So we're in pretty good shape for the
12 most part.

13 MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. All right. Ms. Murchison.

14 MS. MURCHISON: Good morning.

15 This week we're at Holy Cross School. Last week
16 we were at South Philadelphia High.

17 Our total was 117 board members that had attended
18 the classes.

19 Downstairs I have my temps alphabetizing the 2013
20 -- the 2012 General work, and the perms are filing the 2012
21 Primary work.

22 That's all I have.

23 COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: Ms. Murchison, how is the
24 revised election board training working out?

1 I mean, have you got much feedback from people one
2 way or another?

3 MS. MURCHISON: Some like it, some don't.

4 COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: Okay.

5 MS. MURCHISON: It is, like, almost split in half
6 depending on what school we were at.

7 MR. CHAIRMAN: Right.

8 COMMISSIONER SINGER: I did get an unsolicited
9 E-mail saying how much -- that someone really liked it.

10 And, also, that the presenters were very good.

11 So, thank you for that.

12 MS. MURCHISON: You're welcome.

13 MR. CHAIRMAN: We're going to move right along.

14 MS. MURCHISON: It is just with the equipment, if
15 I could finish.

16 MR. CHAIRMAN: Oh, okay.

17 MS. MURCHISON: It's awkward. We need a smaller
18 screen. We're going to need additional equipment because
19 that screen Abe and Jamar fight with it for 45 -- well, I'm
20 lying, about 10 minutes to get it put down.

21 But it is just real difficult.

22 MR. LYNCH: We're working on finding a smaller one
23 because that is. It is too big. It's big, and then you
24 have to break it down and then put it in her car. And then

1 when they get home at night they have to take it out and put
2 it in her house. It's just -- it is a hassle.

3 But they're working with it.

4 We're trying to find two new ones.

5 And we're going to go through Epson; right?

6 MS. MURCHISON: That is the site that I gave you.

7 MR. LYNCH: Yeah.

8 So, we're going to try to get a smaller one, more
9 convenient.

10 COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: Great.

11 MR. CHAIRMAN: We're going to move right along.

12 Joe Lynch.

13 MR. LYNCH: Yes. Good morning, Commissioners.

14 All the data is entered for the database for the
15 election -- for the machines.

16 We're just waiting for all the court hearings, for
17 all the smoke to clear on the appeals, the appeal process.
18 We don't want to take anybody off yet.

19 We've done three proofs so far. We're on our
20 third, should I say.

21 Joyce Roll had entered all the -- she did all the
22 audio for all of the candidates, which was a ton of
23 candidates for the bottom of the ballot, the board workers.
24 That's done. That was done today. She finished that today.

1 Like I said, we're working on the third proof.

2 After that, once the appeal process is over, we
3 can start taking the candidates off.

4 Also, the absentee -- all the absentee envelopes
5 that we met with the post office a few weeks ago, we finally
6 got them approved by the post office. And we're having
7 envelopes shipped to Central Dup, and Central Dup is going
8 to print those envelopes.

9 So, hopefully, I'll have them in the next couple
10 of weeks. And that will save us a lot of money as opposed
11 to using the prisons. We're going to use Central Dup, which
12 is affiliated with us.

13 MR. CHAIRMAN: Right.

14 MR. LYNCH: What else? That's about it.

15 As far as the watchers go, we haven't gotten them
16 in yet, but we're taking -- anybody that wants to apply for
17 watchers we'll take them, but we haven't gotten them.

18 I think we got one ward and that was it.

19 So, if we can get that out -- start getting that
20 process out of the way, that would help.

21 And that's it.

22 MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Greg Irving.

23 MR. IRVING: Good morning, Commissioners.

24 I submitted to each one of you a report showing

1 our voter application stats up until today's date.

2 We've currently processed over 75,000
3 applications; 64,000 are electronic applications, and
4 another 10,500 are paper applications. The last 150 paper
5 applications which we had were processed this morning. And
6 this morning we started off with about 670 electronic
7 applications which have been processed. Add those two
8 numbers together along with about 900 others.

9 We'll be mailing out cards probably on Thursday.
10 And that's the bulk of our cards left to be mailed out.

11 Everybody else is doing regular election work at
12 this point in time.

13 We're waiting to see if we get anything handed
14 back down to us from the courts, which it doesn't look like
15 it's going to be, because everything went so smoothly.

16 And we're just sitting back doing regular work
17 while we're waiting on that stuff.

18 That concludes my report.

19 MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Is there any new business?

20 Okay. Greg.

21 MR. IRVING: Commissioners, Leroy Holmes, who is
22 one of our investigators, he also serves as the shop steward
23 and delegate for District Council 33, this morning he handed
24 me a grievance form against the Commission, and particularly

1 Stephanie Singer, for an incident last week which pertains
2 to Kevin Kelly.

3 I promptly read it and I turned that over to our
4 HR Department.

5 MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay.

6 MR. IRVING: So it is in their hands now. So they
7 should be contacting you to let you know about that.

8 MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

9 MR. IRVING: You're welcome.

10 MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. We are going to--

11 COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: I don't have any new
12 business.

13 MR. CHAIRMAN: Any new business?

14 COMMISSIONER SINGER: (Shakes head.)

15 MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. We are going to have
16 Executive Session after this meeting concerning personnel
17 issue.

18 So we are going to adjourn to the call of the
19 Chair this meeting. Thank you.

20 COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: Thank you.

21 MR. VOIGT: Keep in mind, next week there are
22 going to be hearings on polling place changes. It will
23 begin at 9:00. The regular meeting will commence at 11,
24 reconvene at 1 for further hearings on polling place

1 changes.

2 (Whereupon, the proceeding was

3 adjourned at approximately 11:14

4 a.m.)

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1 C E R T I F I C A T E

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3 I, RENÉE HELMAR, a Shorthand Reporter, and
4 Notary, Public, certify that the foregoing is a true
5 and accurate transcript of the proceedings which
6 were held at the time, place and on the date herein
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8 I further certify that I am neither
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12 I am not a relative or employee of any attorney or
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19 Renée Helmar

20 Shorthand Reporter

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